Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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From 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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6.

TOWER GROVE PARK

Missouri State Historical Survey 1968 State x

Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building,

Jefferson City

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Tower Grove Park encompasses a long, narrow rectangular area of 277 acres located in the south central section of St. Louis, Missouri. It is bounded by Magnolia Avenue on the north, Grand Boulevard on the east, Arsenal Street on the south and Kingshighway Boulevard on the west.

Originally this land was open prairie, and it still retains the flat rolling contour of a plain, but it has now been domesticated. Treeless in the beginning, Tower Grove Park (the second largest park in St. Louis) is of English design with its grand drives and walks interspersed with colossal but graceful statues, miniature lakes, gazeboes and other summer houses, and hundreds of trees suited to the soil and climate of Missouri.

The park was designed by James Gurney, Sr. (1831-1920) an Englishman whom Henry Shaw, donor of the land, brought to St. Louis for that purpose. Mr. Gurney, who had been head of the aquatic section of the Royal Gardens at Kew, remained in St. Louis as park superintendent afterwards.

The landscape design follows the so-called "gardenesque" or "cultivated" style of park arrangement, a style popular in the second half of the nineteenth century in this country. The 1883 report of the Commissioners of Tower Grove Park fully explains the nature of this style:

The cultivated style of park ornamentation necessarily implies order, systematic arranement, but it is not limited to formal or purely artistic conceptions, and the freedom and grace of nature are not sacrificed in the landscape it creates. The artist of the graceful and cultivated style pursues a middle course between the picturesque and the formality of the purely artificial, aiming always to preserve the harmony of natural forms and scenes.

The reflection of this style is still evident. The plan of the park is dominated by a central drive from the east to the west end. Each end of the drive is elevated to provide a view of the park, and the traffic circles interrupt the course of the road to break the formal monotony of a long straight line. Originally on either side of the main drive was a somewhat narrower road by which the park could also be traveled from east to west. Each way had frequent curves and passed through a Series of wooded groves. The north road still exists, but the eastern section of the south road between Tower Grove Avenue and Grand Boulevard has been obliterated. Several north—south pedestrian paths which were once prevalent have since disappeared. The roads are now paved for automobile traffic.

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TOWER GROVE PARK

Most of the structures and ornamentation places throughout the park date from the second half of the nineteenth century, and most are significant architecturally as surviving examples of pleasure and garden buildings.

Most of the buildings, the main entrance on Grand Boulevard, and the bases of the three 30 foot high bronze statues were designed by George I. Barnett (1815 - 1898). Barnett was an English-born architect who was probably the most distinguished representative of his profession in Missouri in the nineteenth century; he received several other important commissions from Henry Shaw. There are ten picnic pavilions or gazeboes in the park (3, 5, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19) which reflect a variety of architectural styles including elements of Greek revival, gothic revival, oriental, and nineteenth century bracket and scroll. As a collection of garden architecture they are perhaps unsurpassed in any public park in this country. In addition there are smaller well houses (no longer functioning as sources of drinking water) of a pleasent nineteenth century rural nature. Three gothic revival stone gatehouses (1, 7, and 20) guard the north, south, and west entrances to the park, and heighten the romantic effect gathered from the other exotic structures on the grounds. The Moorish-domed bandstand (10) is a prominent feature near the center of the park, and it is surrounded by Carrara marble busts of composers which were popular with Mr. Shaw and the public of the 1870's: Mozart, Rossini, Verdi, Gounoud, Wagner, and Beethoven.

Other sculptural decorations include the German wrought zinc figures of griffins and recumbent lions (the latter after Canova's lions) which guard the Grand Boulevard entrance; three over life-sized bronze statues (Columbus, von Humbolt, and Shakespeare) by Baron Ferdinand von Muller of Munich (a favorite Shaw artist), and an ornamental pool backed by "ruins" constructed out of rusticated and classically carved limestone fragments from the Lindell Hotel (St. Louis) which burned in 1867.

Although some buildings have been erected in this century, they are relatively few, and the park retains its essentially nineteenth century character. The gazeboes and other shelters are well-main-tained, and a few years ago were repainted in Victorian hues which have done much to recapture the original feeling of Tower Grove Park.

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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
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SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	ote and Known) 1868		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	late)	
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Communications	Military	☐ Theater	
Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

Tower Grove Park is significant as a well preserved and outstanding example of a public park of the 1870's in particular, and the later nineteenth century in general. The total ensemble—landscape architecture, gaxeboes, and gatehouses, and ornament—al sculpture and picturesque conceits—is a rare survivor for its period of unusually fine quality. The park can be compared favorably with any other of its period in the country for the excellence of its over—all plan, and the variety and richness of the ornamentation, both structural and artistic. As a unit—as a collection of picturesque and eclectic styles employed purely for pleasure—it probably has no rival in the United States.

Equally interesting is the background of its creation. Henry Shaw, the wealthy English-born donor and patron; James Gurney, the English-born landscape gardener; and George I. Barnett, the English born architect, present an unusally gifted and enlightened trio of creators. Henry Shaw (whose benefaction include the founding of the Missouri Botanical Garden on his country estate adjacent to the park) was a student of English landscape gardens; and his selection of two fellow-countrymen to assist in developing the park was no accident. The park is, in many ways, an English garden experience transported to the midwest.

Tower Grove Park is a significant recreational, horticultural, and visual experience of a century ago on a major scale which has come through the years, virtually unchanged.

The land for Tower Grove Park was donated to the city in 1867 by Henry Shaw, a hardware merchant, importer, and western outfitter who came to St. Louis in 1819, prospered, and retired at the age of forty to devote full time to travel and his avocation, botany. (D. O. Jensen, "The Enigma of Mr. Shaw", Missouri Historical Society Bulletin, Vol. XV, July 1959, p. 311.) Public funds of \$300,000 were then raised to match the land donation and support

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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8.

TOWER GROVE PARK

for its ornamental improvement. Because the territory donated for the park was on the edge of the city and outside its limits, the creation and improvement of the area had to be authorized by the Legislature of the State. On March 9th, 1867 "An act to create, establish and provide the government of Tower Grove Park of the city of St. Louis" was passed and approved. The growth of the city soon encompassed the park and it is now located close to the heart of St. Louis.

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	1. Belcher, W. W. The Economic Rivalry Between St. Louis and Chicago. New York: 1947.										
	2.	Devoy, J. A.	A Hi	story	of t	he Cit	у	y of St. Louis. St. Louis: 1898.			
	3. •	Jensen, D. O. Bulletin, V	"Th	e Eni XV, J	gma o uly,	f Mr. 1959.	S	Shaw". Missouri Historical Societ	Ā		
	4. i	MacAdam, D. H	. <u>To</u>	wer G	rove	Park.		St. Louis: 1883.			
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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TOWER GROVE PARK

- 6. Reavis, L. U. Saint Louis: The Future Great City of the World. St. Louis: 1876.
- 7. Scharf, J. T. History of St. Louis City and County, From the Earliest Periods to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of the Representative Men. Philadelphia: 1883.

CODE 510 DATE FOR NPS USE ONLY Quadrangle, Webster Groves, Missouri St. Louis Missouri ENTRY NUMBER St. Louis Tower Grove Park of the City of St. Louis COUNTY STATE Boundaries as shown on annexed map COUNTY NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CODE 29 PROPERTY MAP FORM Tower Grove Park U.S.G.S. 7.51 1. Property broundaries where required. Latitude and longitude reference. St. Louis 1:24,000 Missouri TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS 1954 STREET AND NUMBER: 2. North arrow. AND/OR HISTORIC: 3. MAP REFERENCE 4. REQUIREMENTS CITY OR TOWN: 2. LOCATION COMMON: SOURCE: ^JFarm 10.301 (July 1969) STATE: SCALE DATE

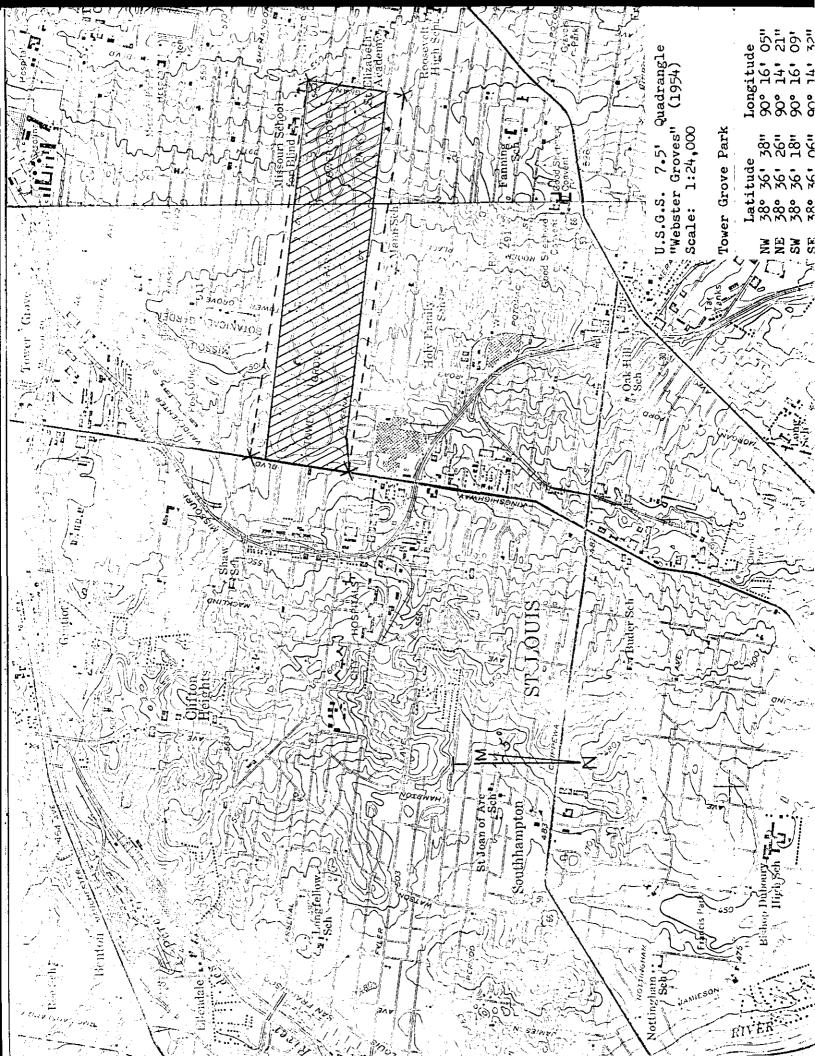
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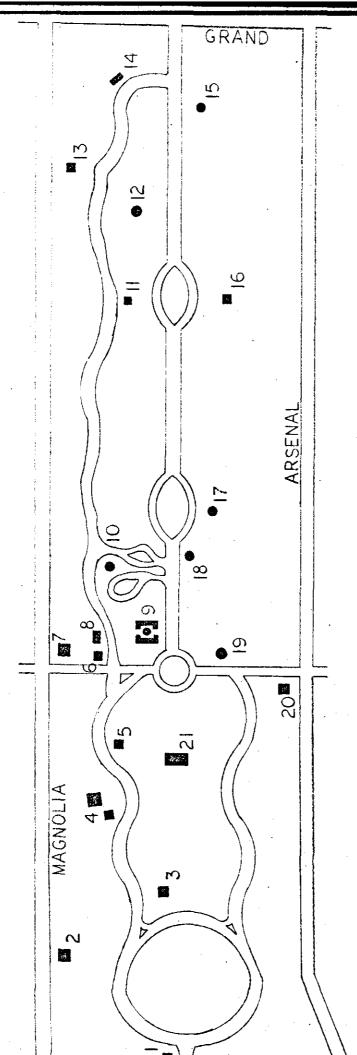
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TOWER GROVE PARK

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Tower Grove Park 36 St. Louis, Missouri artist: Camille Dry 1875

source: Richard V. Compton, ed.

Pictorial St. Louis

St. Louis: 1875

composite assembled from 5 plates showing bird's - eye view of park from southeast



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Missouri COUNTY

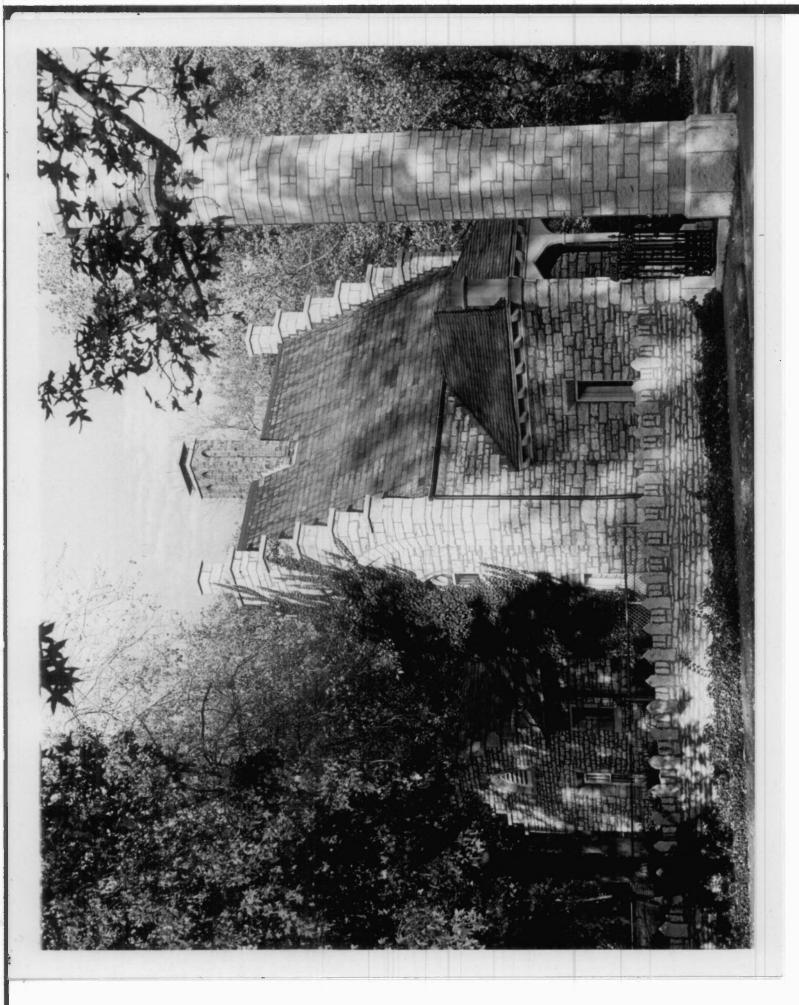
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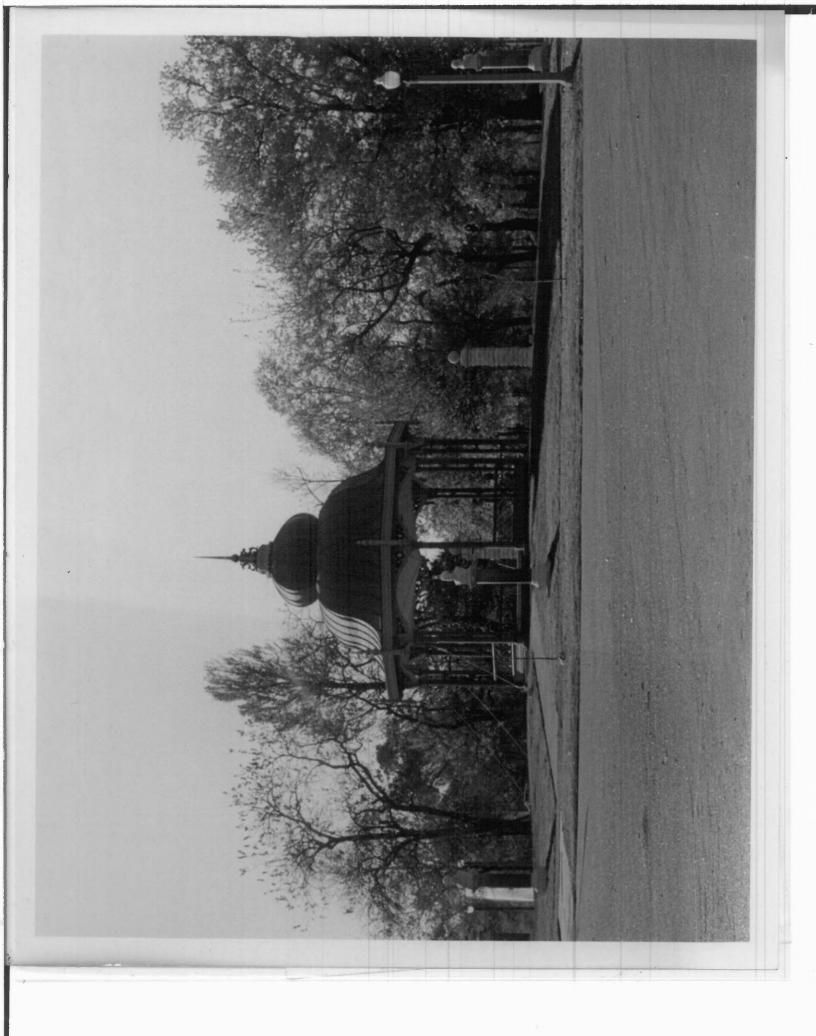
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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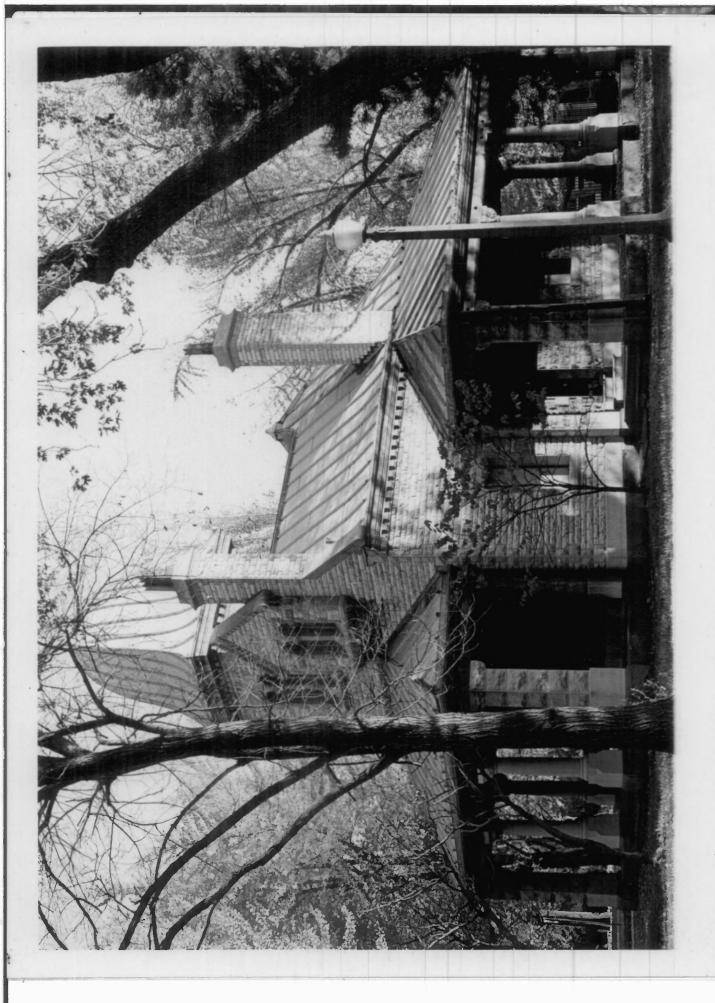
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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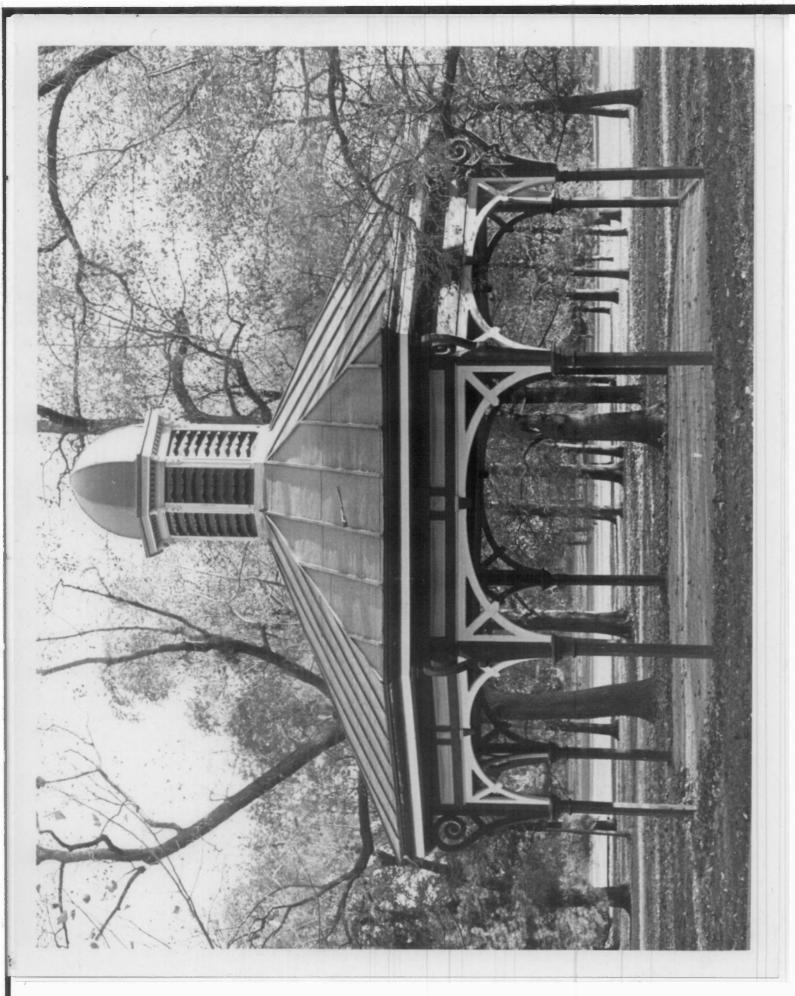
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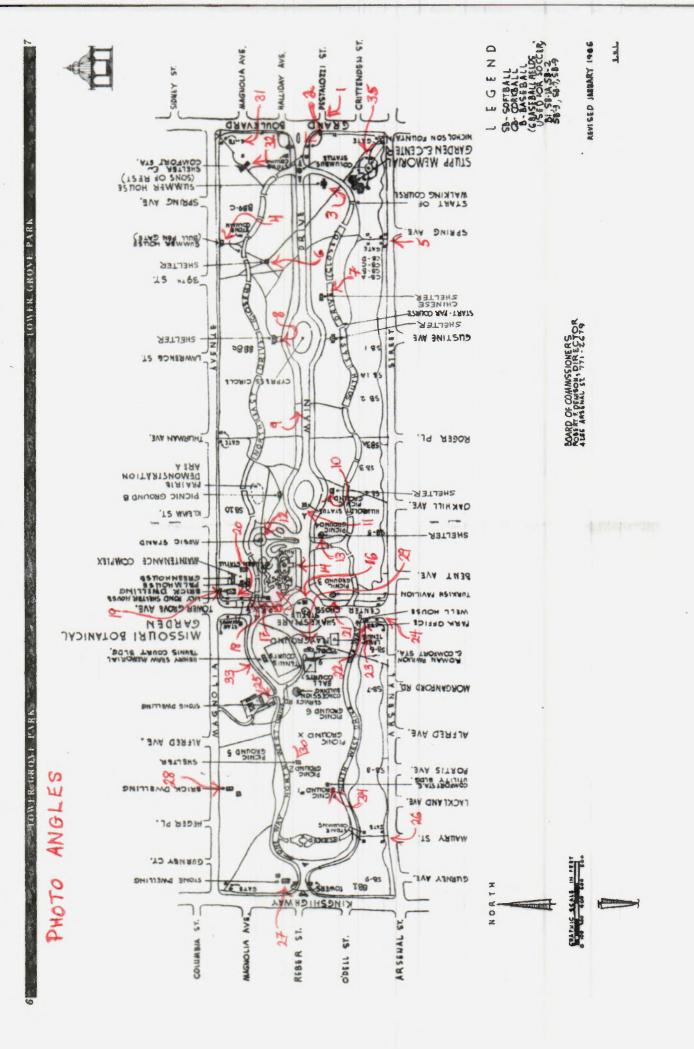
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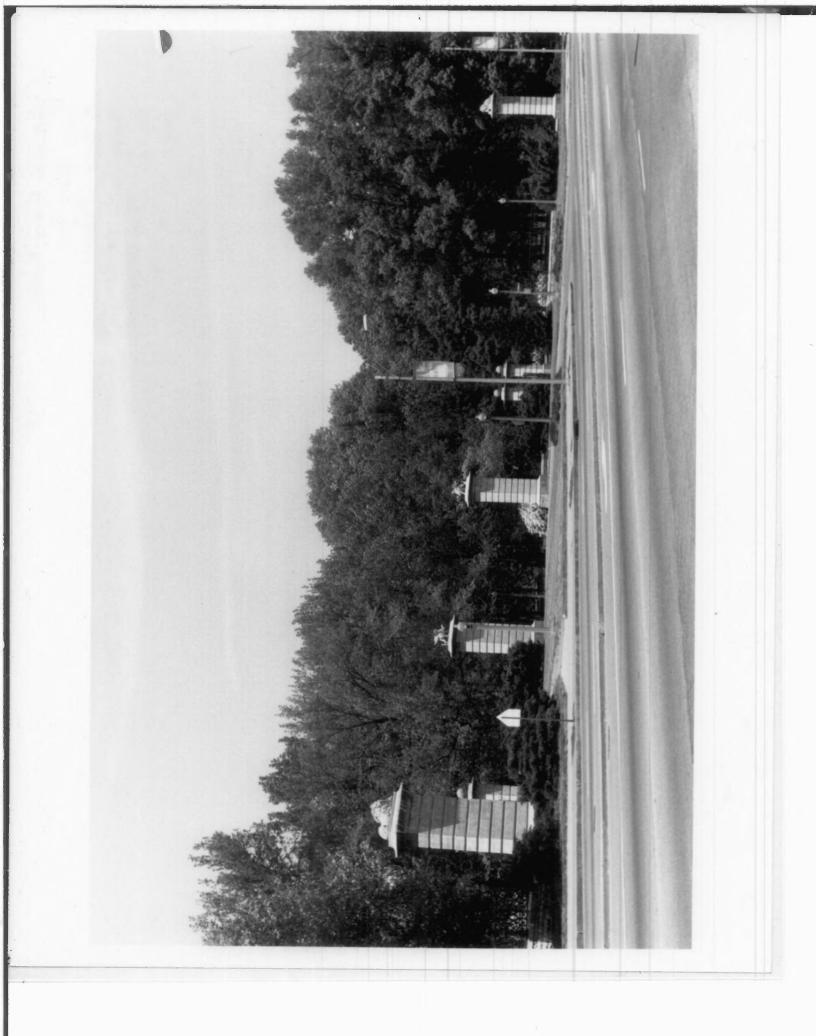
I. NAME COMMON: Tower Inove Park AND/OR HISTORIC: Tower Grove Park of the City of St. Louis 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: Boundaries as shown on annexed site plan man CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE 510 29 St. Louis 3. PHOTO REFERENCE Michael Hannah PHOTO CREDIT: DATE OF PHOTO: Ostober, 1970 NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176 130% Jufferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 4. IDENT CONTON DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Park Picnic pavilion; number seventeen (17) on the annexed site plan map; view from the north facing south.

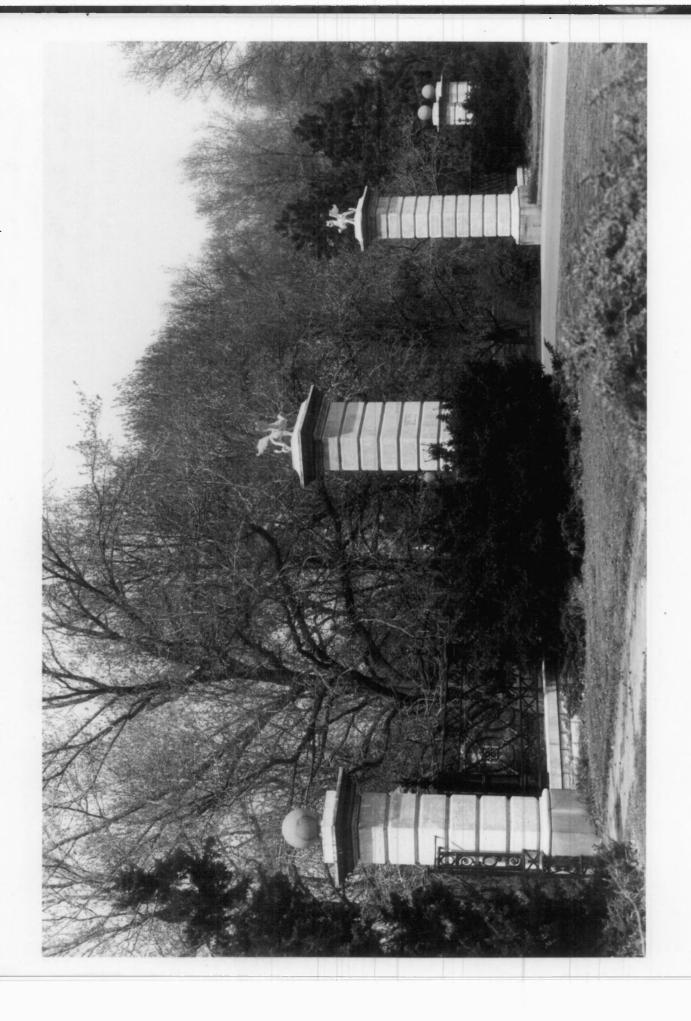




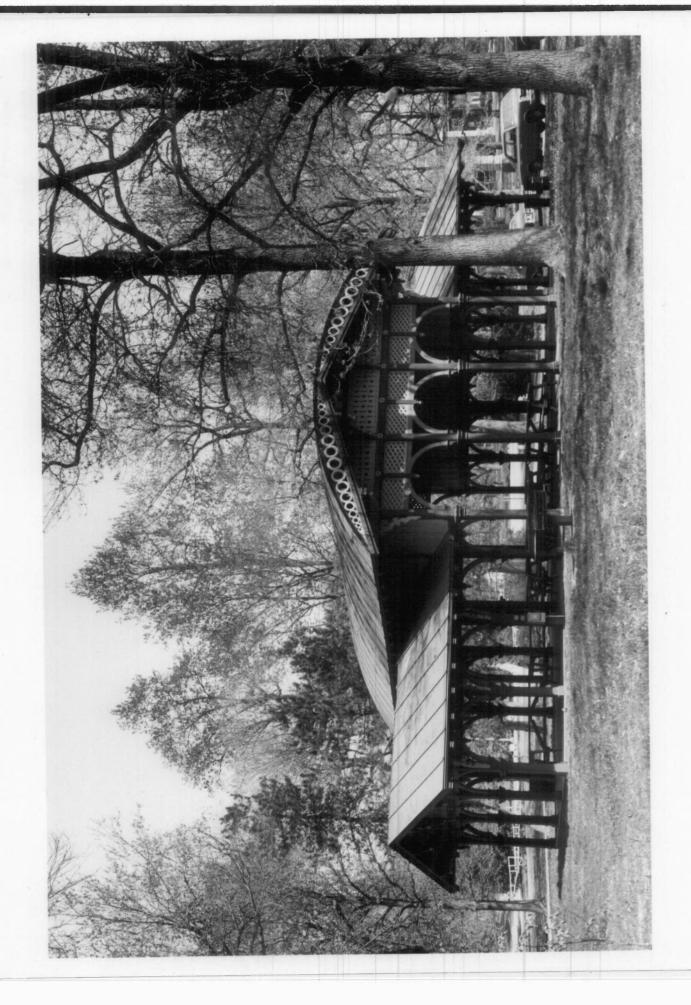
East Gate, Grand Avenue
Tower Grove Park
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog Esley Homitton, 1988
Neg. Loc. Tower Grove Park
general view from southeast



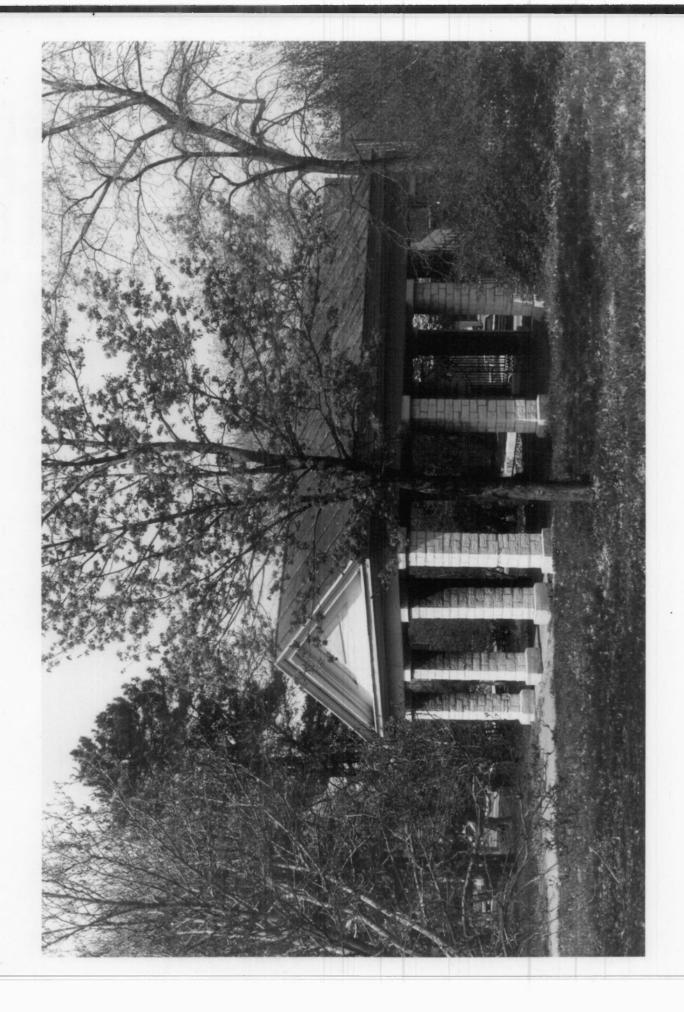
East Gate, Grand Avenue
Tower Grove Park
St Louis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc. Tower Grove Park
detail from southcast



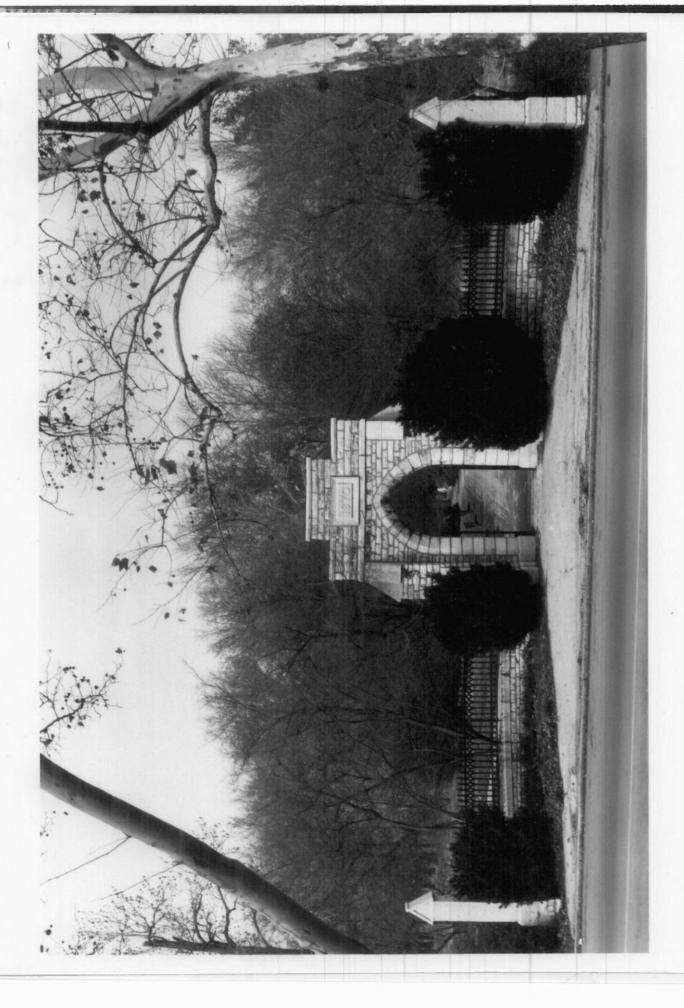
Shelter 22 (Sons of Rest)
Tower Grove Pork 3
St. Lowis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc: Tower Grove Park
view from southwest



Bull Pen Gote
Tower Grove Park 4
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
New. Loc.: Tower Grove Park
view from southeast

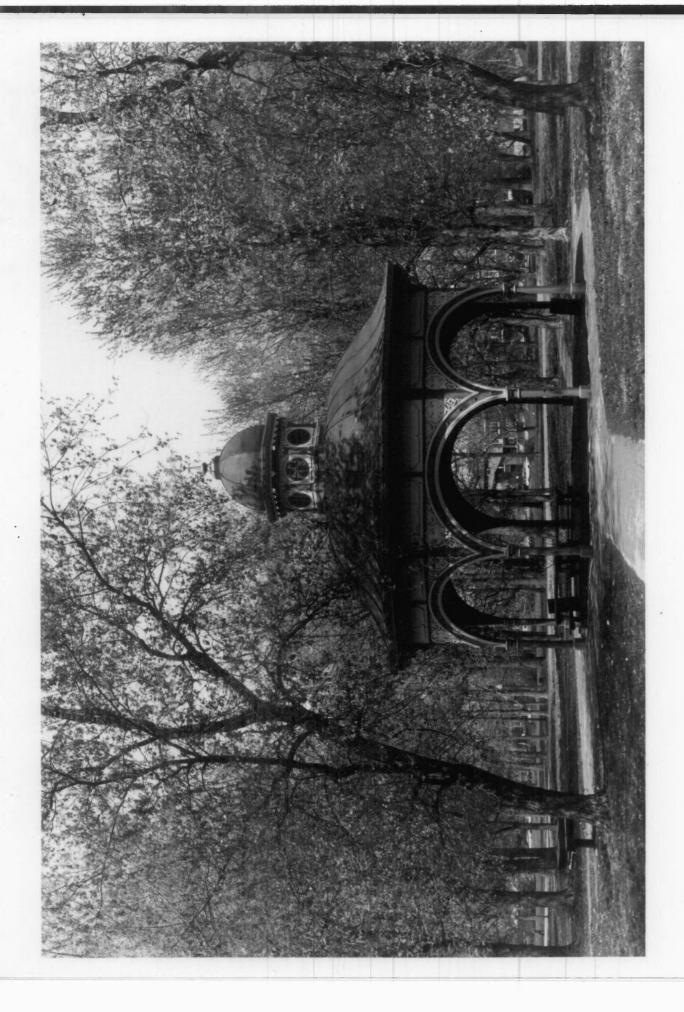


Spring Avenue Gate
Tower Grove Park
St. Lowis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
New Loc: Tower Grove Park
View from south ocross Arsenal St.

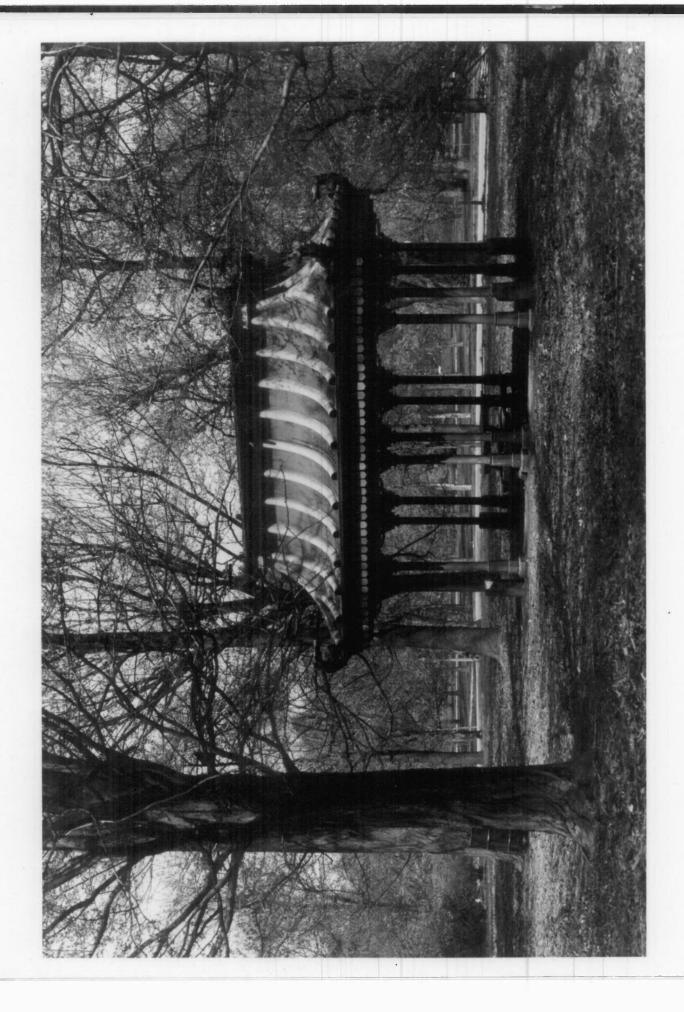


Shelter 25 (Children's Playground Summerhouse)
Towar Grove Park

St. Louis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Homilton 1938
Neg. Loc.: Towar Grove Park
View from south



Shelter 21 (Chinese Builion)
Tower Grove Park
Tower Grove Park
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc.: Tower Grove Park
View from south

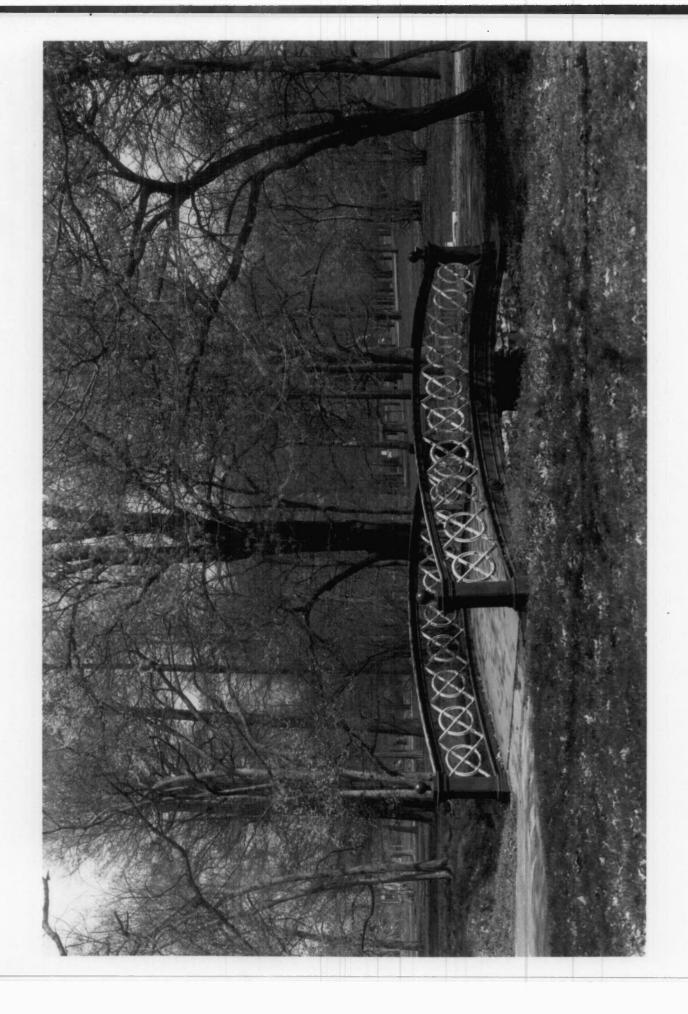


()

Shelter 19
Tower Grove Park 8
Tower Grove Park 8
St Lowis, Missouri
St Lowis, Missouri
Dhotog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg Loc: Tower Grove Park
View From south



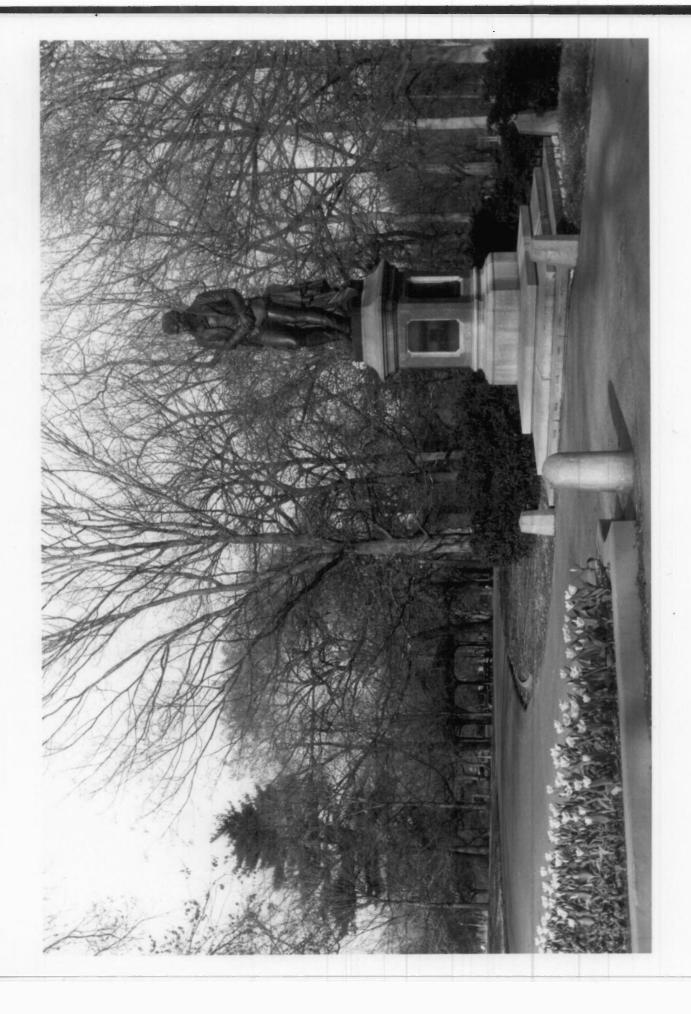
North Iron Bridge 9
Tower Grove Pork 9
St Louis, Missouri
Photos: Esley Homitton 1928
Neg. Loc.: Tower Grove Pork
New Yorn Southwest



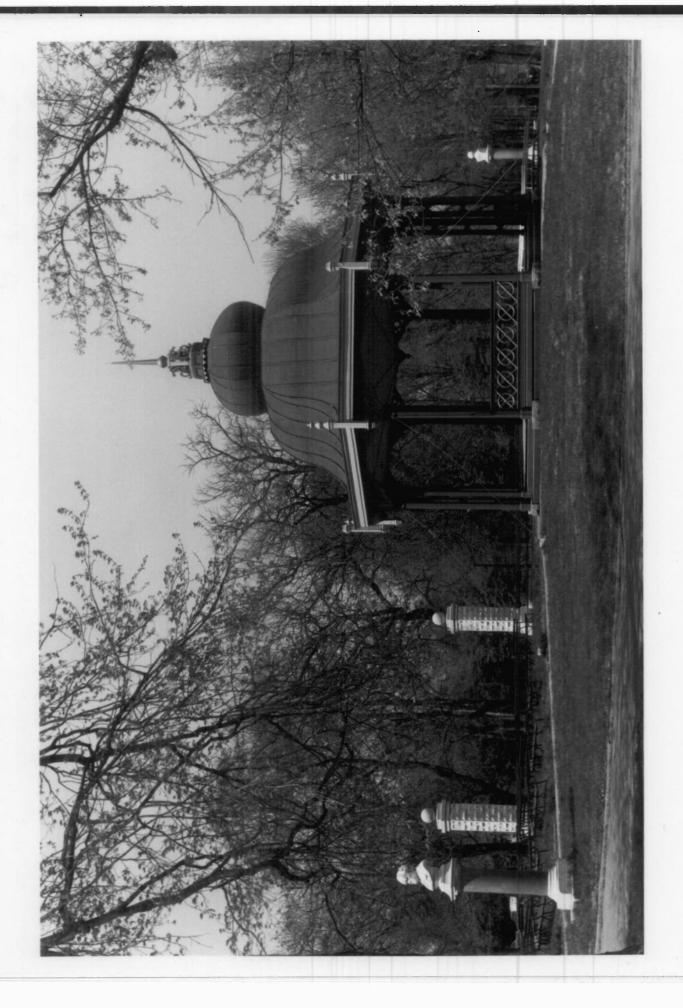
Shelter 18
Tower Grove York 10
St. Louis, Missouri
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
**leg. Loc. Tower Grove Park
view from west



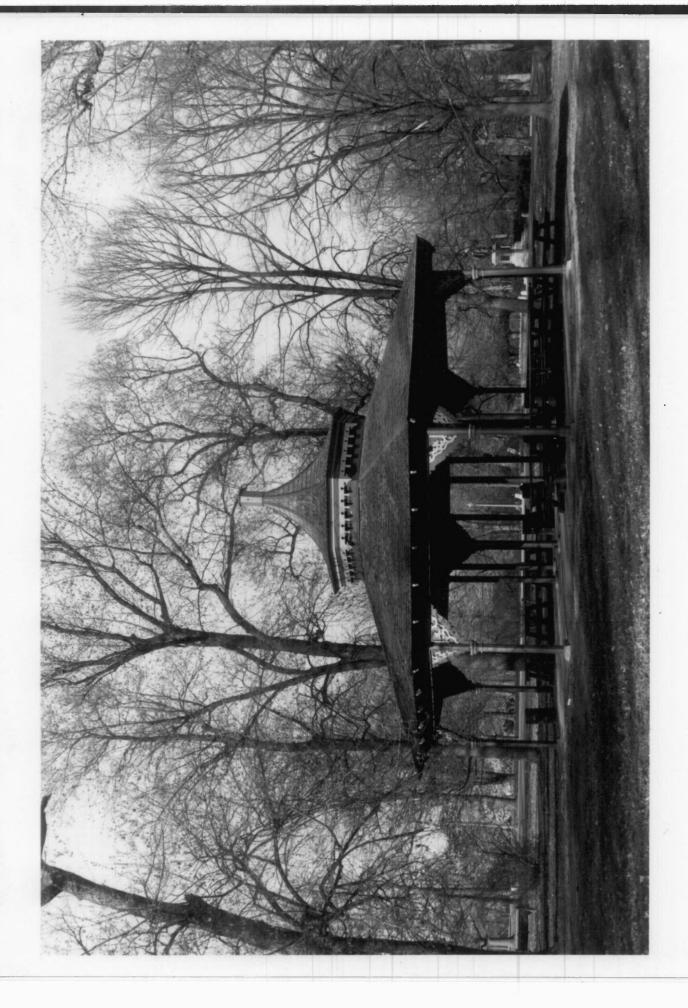
Alexander von Humboldt Statue Tower Grove Park 11 St. Lows, Missouri St. Lows, Missouri Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988 Neg Loc. Tower Grove Park Neg Loc. Tower Grove Park



Music Stand
Tower Grove Park 12
St. Lows, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Meg. Loc: Tower Grove Park
View from southeast



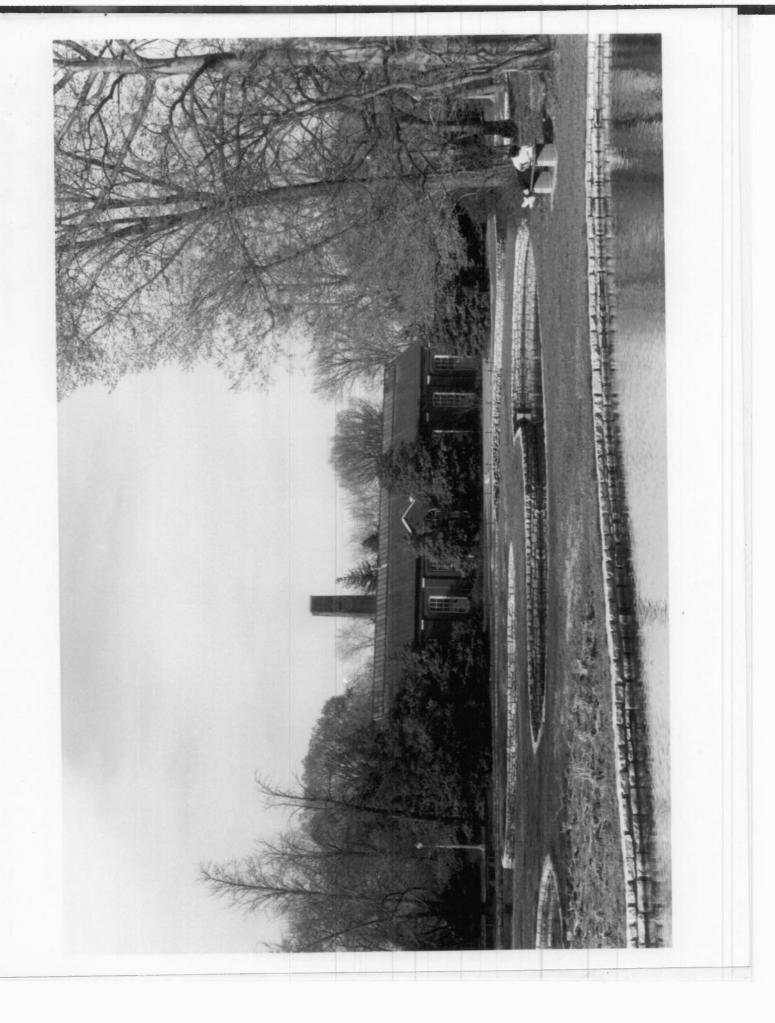
Shelter 16 (Horse Concourse)
Tower Grove Park 13
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog.: Esley Hamilton 1988
New. Loc.: Tower Grove Park
view from southwest



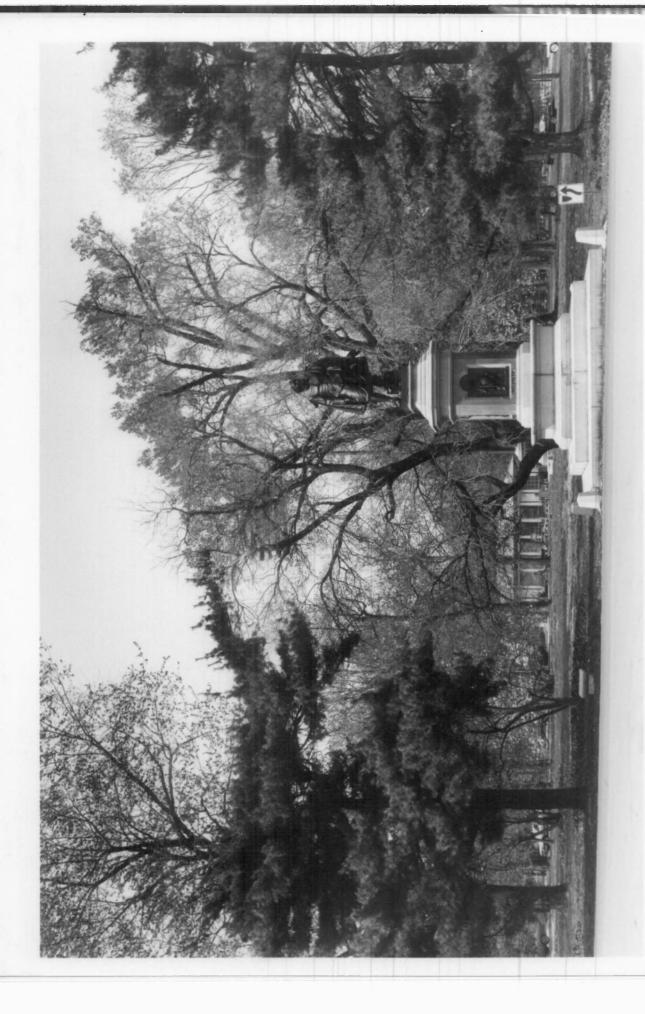
Scilboot Pond and Ruin Tower Grove Park 14 St. Louis, Missouri Photog Esley Hamilton 1988 Neg. Loc: Tower Grove Park View from south



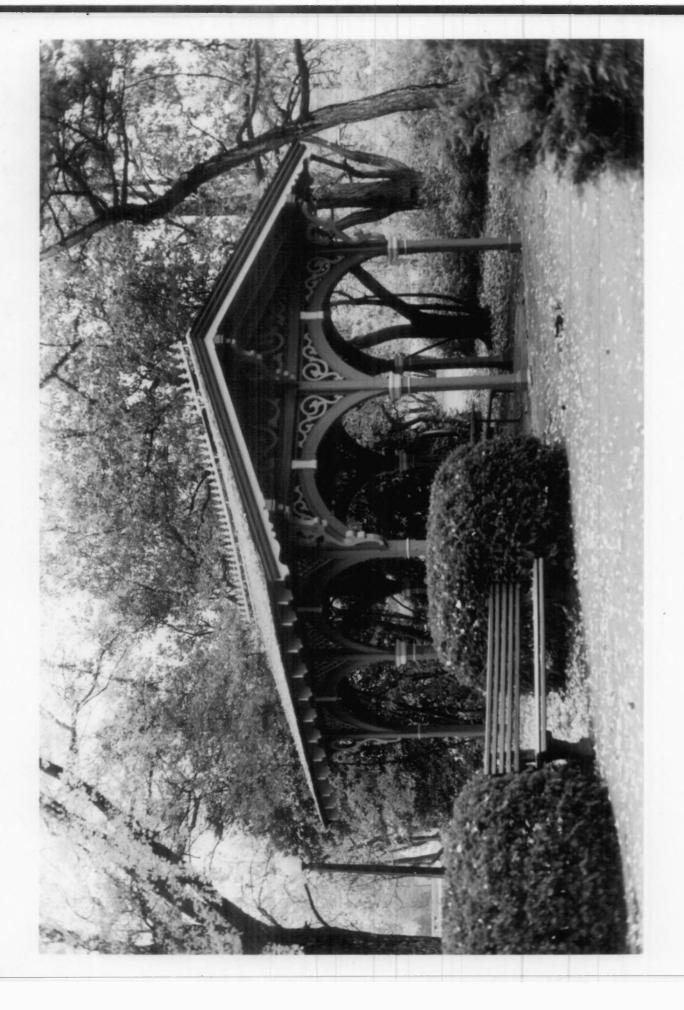
Lily Ponds and Plant House Jower Grove Park 15 54. Lows, Missouri Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988 New Ice: Tower Grove Park View from southwest



Shakespeare Statue
Tower Grove Pork 16
St. Lows, Missowri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg Loc: Tower Grove Park
View from east with flagpole
and Roman Pavilion



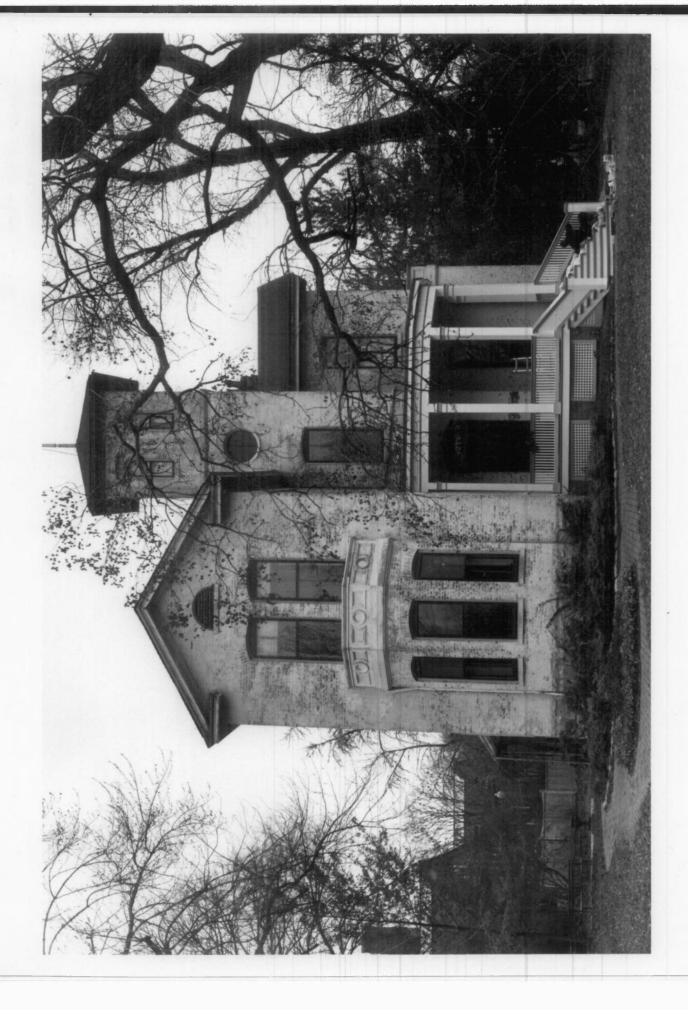
Shetter 28 (Lily Pond Summerhouse)
Tower Grove Park 17
St. Lowis, Missouri
St. Lowis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc.: Tower Grove Park
view from northwest



Stag Stotue and Superintendent's House Tower Grove Park 18
St Louis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1938
New Loc.: Tower Grove Park



Superintendent's House, 11274 Magndia Ave.
Tower Grove Park 19
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog: Estey Hamilton 1988
Meglac: Tower Grove Park
view from north



North Gate (Magnolia Avenue)
Tower Grove Park 20
St. Lowis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg Loc: Tower Grove Park
view from southeast



Shetter 10 (Turkish Pavilion)
Tower Grove Park
St. Lowis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg Loe: Tower Grove Park
vièw from west



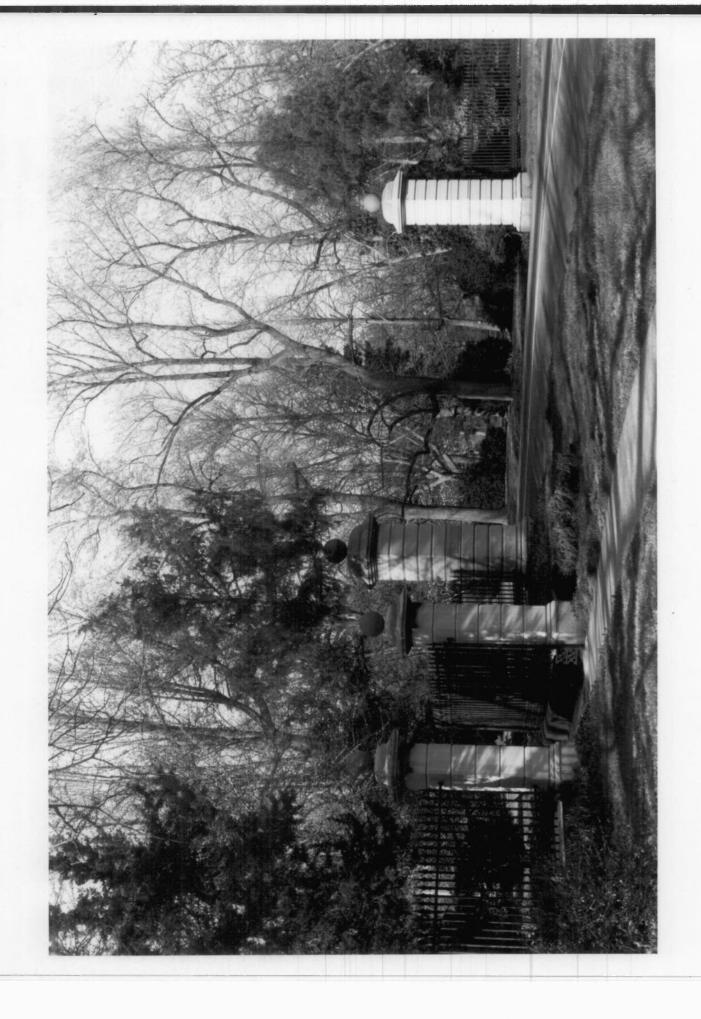
Well House Fork 22 Jower Grove Park 22 St. Lows, Missouri Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988 Neg Loc: Jower Grove Park View from west



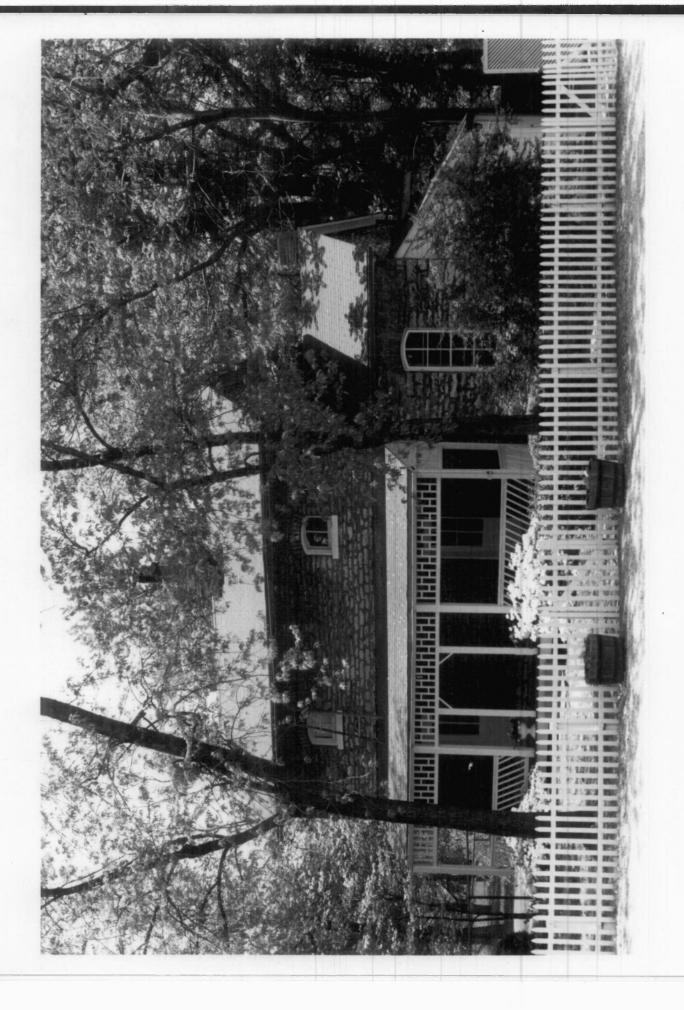
South Gate Lodge, 4255 Arsend St. Tower Grove Park 23 St. Louis, Missouri St. Louis, Missouri Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988 Neg Loc.: Tower Grove Park View from northwest



South Gate (Arsenal Street)
Tower Grove Park 24
34. Lows, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc: Tower Grove Park
view from southwest



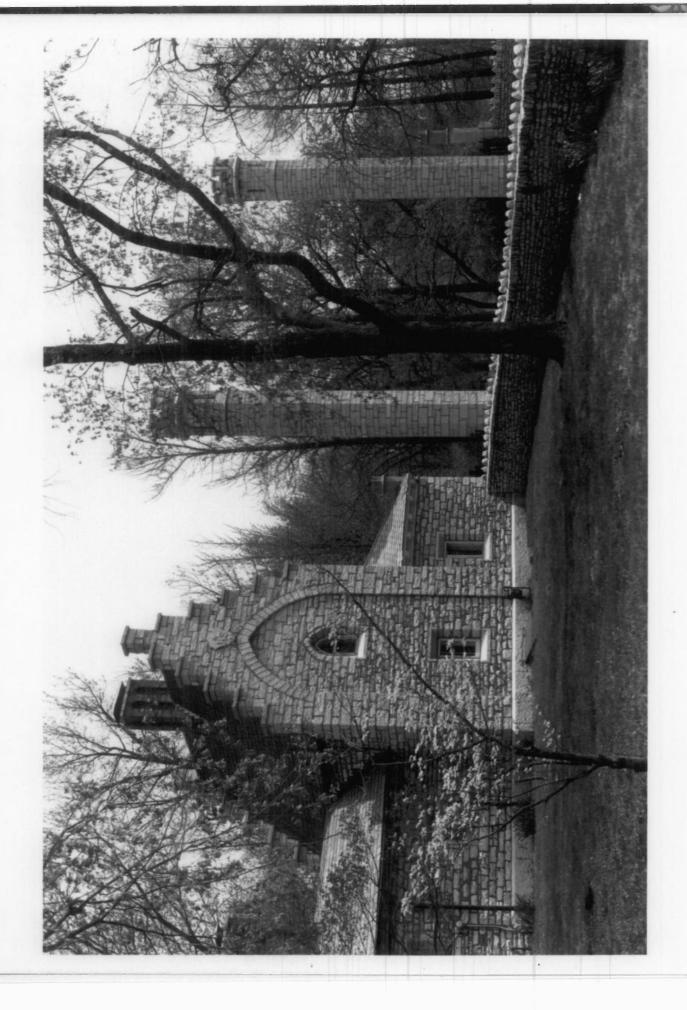
Stone House at Stoble Complex Tower Grave Park 25 St. Lows, Missouri St. Lows, Missouri Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988 Neg. Loc: Tower Grave Park



Maury Street Gate
Tower Grove Park
St. Lows, Missouri,
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc.: Tower Grove Park
inew from south ocross Arsenal St.



West Gate House and Gate
2800 Kingshighway
Tower Grove Park
St. Lows, Missouri
St. Lows, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg Loc : Tower Grove Park
Lieu from northwest



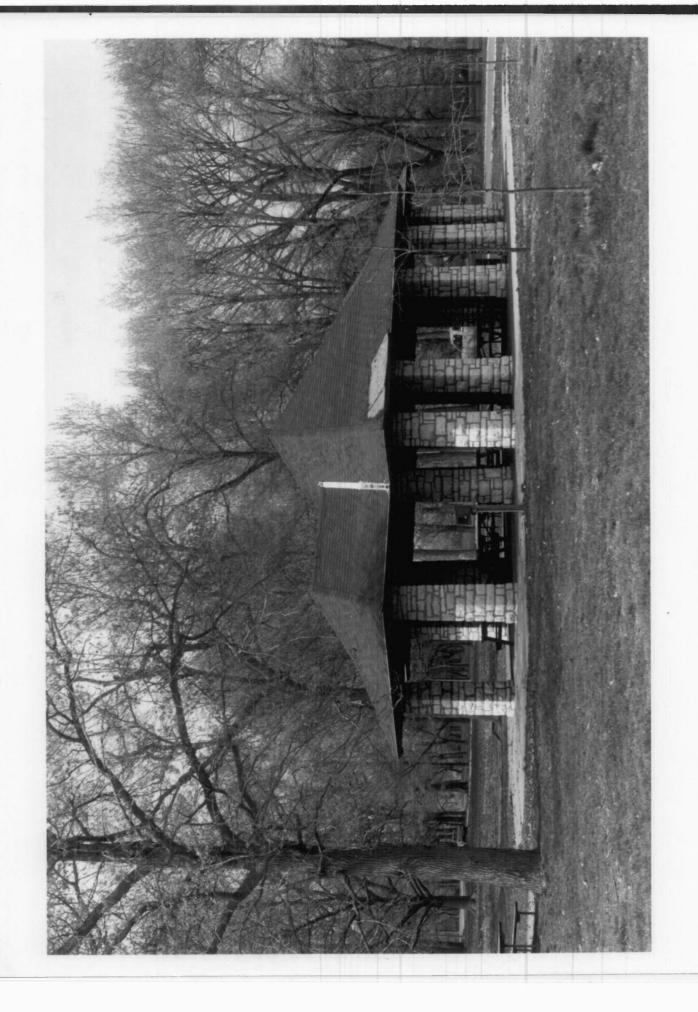
4548 Magnolia Avenue Tower Grove Park 28 St. Lowis, Missouri Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988 Neg. Loc: Tower Grove Park View from north



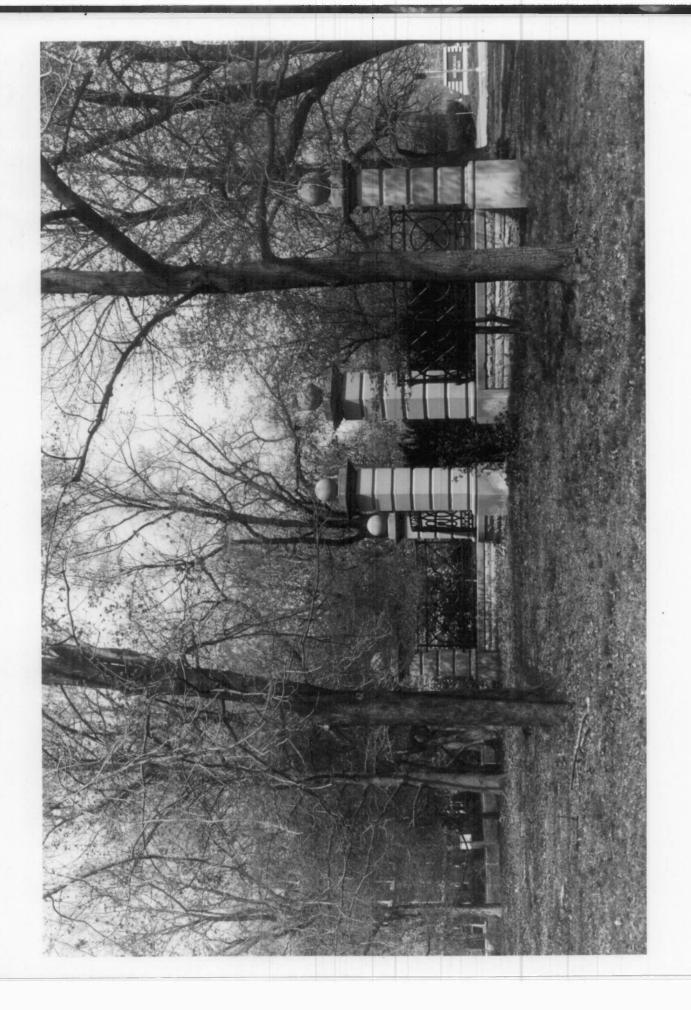
Shelter 9 (Roman Pavilloin), 1914
Tower Grove Park 29
St. Lows, Missouri
Photog.: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc.: Tower Grove Park
view from southeast



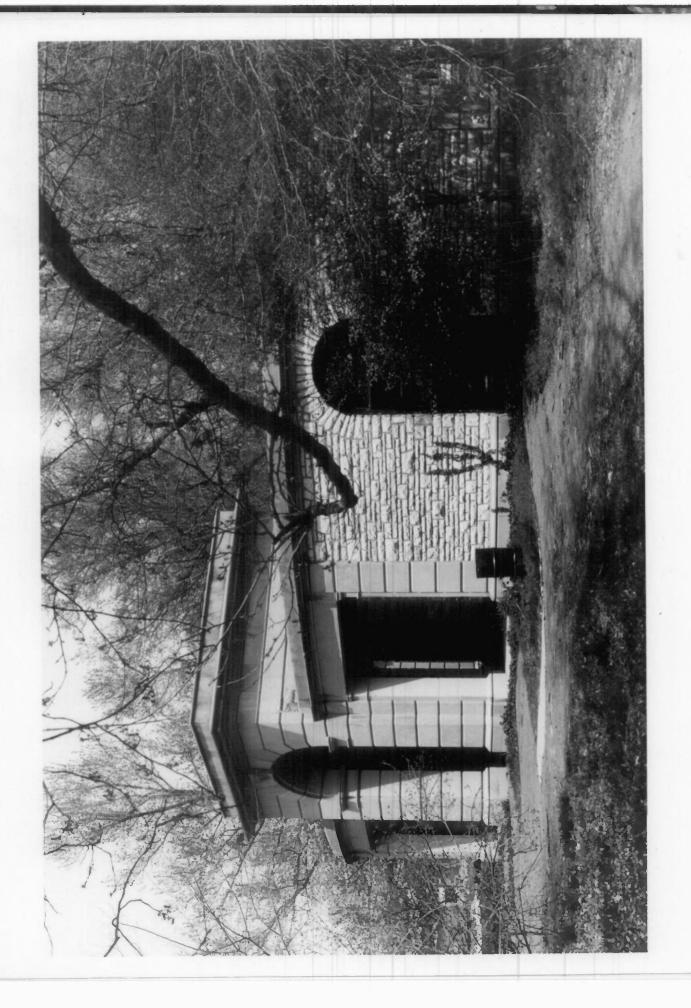
Shetter 13 (Stone Pavilion), 1923
Tower Grove Park
St. Lowis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg: Loc. Tower Grove Park
Neg: Loc. Tower Grove Park



Northeast Gate, 1931
Tower Grove Park
St. Lows, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg loc: Tower Grove Park
View from south



Northeast Shelter and Comfort Station, 1931
Tower Grove Park
St. Lows, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc: Tower Grove Park
View from south



Henry Shaw Memorial Tennis Court Building, 1952 + 1966
Tower Grove Pork
33
St. Lowis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton, 1988
Neg. Loc: Tower Grove Park
view from northwest



Confort Station, 1967
Tower Grove Park 34
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Homithon 1988
New. Loc.: Tower Grove Park
view from southwest



Stupp Memorial Garden and Center, 1982.
Tower Grove Park
St. Lowis, Missouri
St. Lowis, Missouri
Photog.: Esley Hamilton 1986
Neg. Loc.: Tower Grove Park
View From east

